

Based Upon: PCT/IT00/00053

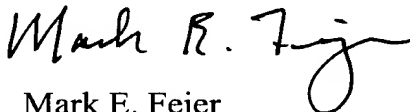
### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above Preliminary Amendment to place this patent application in better form for examination and prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims and to more definitely and fully claim the subject matter of Applicant's invention. Applicant urges that the above Preliminary Amendment introduces no new matter into this patent application.

Applicant sincerely believes that this patent application is now in condition for examination and prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark E. Fejer  
Regis. No. 34,817

Pauley Petersen Kinne & Fejer  
2800 West Higgins Road  
Suite 365  
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195  
(847) 490-1400  
FAX (847) 490-1403

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the claims:

1. (Amended) [Composite] In a composite structure [obtained by coupling] comprising at least two [or more] coupled structures [of the type which present] comprising a plurality of pairs of scissors-connected tubular elements [whose] having extremities [are] hinged in universal joints [and in which the], said universal joints [are] being integral delimited by [large,] substantially equal and parallel faces [preferably substantially parallelepiped in form] and [which present] forming four seats [corresponding to the], each in correspondence with a side [faces] face to accept hinged elements, [characterized by the] the improvement comprising: each of said universal joints [having grooves] forming a groove along [the sides] each side of [the] a face [on which] forming the four seats [are provided], [close] proximate to [the edge] and parallel to [the same] a corresponding edge of each said side, which cooperate with a C-sectioned fixing [elements] element to hold united two matching said universal joints from the two coupled structures [to be coupled].

2. (Amended) [Composite Structures] A composite structure according to Claim 1, [characterized by] wherein the at least two coupled structures [joined being] are superimposed and [presenting, besides], in [the] an inside surface

3. (Amended) [Structures joined] A composite structure according to [Claims] Claim 1 [or 2], [characterized by] wherein the C-[shaped] sectioned fixing [elements being] element is a substantially rectangular [sheets] sheet of flexible material [with] having two opposite folded and inverted edges.

4. (Amended) [Structures joined] A composite structure according to [the Claims] Claim 1 [to 2], [characterized by the] wherein a folded and inverted [edges] edge of the C-[shaped] sectioned fixing [elements presenting] element has a dimension and a shape corresponding to the [grooves] groove on [the faces] each said side of the face of the universal joint.

5. (Amended) [Composite structures] A composite structure  
according to [Claims] Claim 1 [to 4], [characterized by] wherein the C-[shaped]

Based Upon: PCT/IT00/00053

sectioned fixing [elements being] element is applied only on [the] each external [faces] face of the universal joints that are on [the] an external surface of the structure.

6. (Amended) [Composite structures] A composite structure according to [Claims] Claim 1 [to 4], [characterized by] wherein the C-[shaped] sectioned fixing [elements with inverted edges covering most] element covers a substantial portion of [the] a corresponding side [faces] face of [the] superimposed universal joints and [providing for] forms cut-outs corresponding to the seats for the hinged extended elements.

7. (Amended) [Composite structures] A composite structure according to [Claims] Claim 1 [to 6], [characterized by the] wherein matching faces of the universal joints of the joined structures [presenting] forms at least one [or more] suitable [perforations to house] perforation housing pivots that prevent any movement on [the surfaces of] a contact surface of the universal joints.

8. (Amended) [Universal joints] In a universal joint of substantially parallelepiped form [providing in one of the larger faces for] forming four hinging seats in one of a larger face in correspondence with each side face,

Based Upon: PCT/IT00/00053

[corresponding to the side faces,] suitable for fixing [the extremities] an extremity of an extended [elements] element, [characterized by presenting grooves along the sides] each side of the larger face [in which are scheduled seats for hinging the extended elements] having said four hinging seats forming a groove [in proximity of the edges] proximate to and parallel to a corresponding edge of each said side [the same edges], [that could] adapted to cooperate with a C-sectioned fixing [elements] element to unite two matched said universal joints.

9. (Amended) [Universal joints] A universal joint according to Claim 8, [characterized by presenting internally to the face carrying the grooves,] wherein said larger face forms in an internal surface, a fifth seat into which is fixed the extremity of an extendible telescopic tubular element.